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Good morning Senator Coleman, Representative Fox and members of the Judiciary Committee. I am here to testify in support of SB 1158, AN ACT CONCERNING VICTIMS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING. We all know that the scourge of human trafficking continues to destroy young lives in our state and nation. We have made serious efforts to crack down on the traffickers and with some success. SB 1158 focuses on offering assistance to the young victims who are trafficked and are too often themselves treated as criminals rather than as the crime victims that they in fact are.

SB 1158 adds commercial sexual exploitation of a minor to the list of statutes that require money and properties of the perpetrator be forfeited; the bill further requires that the money forfeited as well as the money from the property forfeited and sold at auction be deposited in the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF). The Office of the Victim Advocate will analyze and make recommendations as to how best to compensate these victims with the funds from CICF.

SB 1158 also requires the Office of the Chief Court Administrator to develop a bilingual notice concerning resources for victims of human trafficking. Truck stops and certain liquor permit premises will be required to post these notices in a conspicuous location.

This legislation would offer much needed assistance to the victims of this despicable crime.

Thank you for hearing this important legislation.